

## Message Text

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17

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 SAM-01 /086 W

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R 221557Z JUL 75M

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4121

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L NOUAKCHOTT 1476

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR PBOR MR MO SS NI

SUBJECT: NIGERIAN POSITION ON SPANISH SAHARA

1. NIGERIAN CHARGE D'AFFAIRES, MUHAMMADU DAN HAMIDU, HAS BEEN TELLING EMBASSY OFFICERS IN NOUAKCHOTT FOR SOME WEEKS THAT NIGERIA'S POLICY ON SPANISH SAHARA IS ONE OF STRICT OBSERVANCE FOR PRINCIPLE OF SELF-DETERMINATION. WE WERE INTRIGUED, THEREFORE, BY NEWS COVERAGE OF LARAKI/MOUKNASS VISIT TO NIGERIA CONTAINED PARA 5C OF RABAT 3514 AND JULY 8 ACCOUNT OVER LAGOS DOMESTIC SERVICE CONTAINED IN JULY 9 FBIS FOR SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA. FBIS ACCOUNT SAID "GENERAL GOWAN CONGRATULATED KING HASSAN OF MOROCCO AND PRESIDENT MOKTAR OULD DADDAH OF MAURITANIA ON THE PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF THEIR DIFFERENCES OVER THE SAHARAN TERRITORY. HE EXPRESSED NIGERIA'S COMPLETE SUPPORT FOR THE JOINT EFFORTS WHICH, HE SAID, ARE IN THE INTEREST OF THE TWO COUNTRIES AND AFRICA."

2. DAN HAMIDU WAS SURPRISED BY ACCOUNT REPORTED OVER RADIO LAGOS. HE SAID NIGERIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY REQUESTED HIS VIEWS ON SPANISH SAHARA BEFORE VISIT TO NIGERIA OF MOUKNASS AND LARAKI AT WHICH TIME CHARGE TOOK OCCASION TO REITERATE WISDOM OF ADHERING TO POLICY OF  
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SUPPORT FOR SELF-DETERMINATION. HE ADDED THAT HIS FOREIGN MINISTRY

HAS NOT COMMUNICATED RESULTS OF LARAKI/MOUKNASS VISIT TO HIM.  
HE NOTED THAT REPORT OVER RADIO LAGOS INDICATES NIGERIA HAS APPARENTLY

CHANGED ITS POLICY ON SPANISH SAHARA FROM NE OF SELF-DETERMINATION  
TO ONE OF SUPPORT FOR MOROCCAN-MAURITANIAN PARTITION. HE EXPRESSED  
PERSONAL UNHAPPINESS AT THIS CHANGE AND OPINED THAT NIGERIAN FOREIGN  
MINISTRY IS NOT GIVING HIS PRESIDENT VERY GOOD ADVICE.

3. COMMENT: GOWAN VIEWS AS REPORTED IN FBIS REPORT DO LEAVE SOME  
ROOM FOR MANEUVER. ACCORDING TO REPORT, GOWAN SUPPORTED "CURRENT  
TACTICAL JOINT EFFORTS BY MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA" AND CALLED ON SPAIN TO

ENTER INTO MEANINGFUL DIALOGUE WITH MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA IN ORDER  
TO FIND PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO PROBLEM. AT NO POINT DID GOWAN  
RULE OUT SELF-DETERMINATION NOR DID HE SPECIFICALLY CALL FOR  
DIVISION OF TERRITORY. WE ALSO WONDER IF HIS COMMENTS  
WERE DESIGNED IN PART FOR BENEFIT OF MOUKNASS AND LARAKI WHO  
DEPARTED LAGOS ON JULY 8.HANDYSIDE

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** INTERVENTION, TERRITORIAL CLAIMS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, POLITICAL SITUATION, SELFDETERMINATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Draft Date:** 22 JUL 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** izenbei0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Executive Order:** X1  
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**To:** STATE  
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